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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PAYS LAST TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

AND

ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

PRESIDENT
TON DUC THANG

VICE-PRESIDENT
NGUYEN LUONG BANG

SPEECH

Delivered by TRUONG CHINH, Chairman of National Assembly Standing Committee

Honorable Members of the Presidium,

Dear Comrade Deputies,

PRESIDENT Ho Chi Minh, the leader of genius of the working class and people of Viet Nam, of the entire Vietnamese nation, the venerated and beloved teacher of the Vietnamese revolution, is no more! Our great national hero is no more! This bereavement has wrung our hearts with a most acute pain!

President Ho Chi Minh was an eminent Marxist who applied in an independent and imaginative manner Marxism-Leninism to the specific conditions of Viet Nam so as to work out a correct line which has taken the Vietnamese revolution from one victory to another. That is the line of national people's democratic revolution proceeding to socialist revolution in a formerly colonial and semi-feudal country, a backward, agricultural country, without going through the stage of capitalist development.

President Ho Chi Minh was the founder of the revolutionary party of the working class, the Marxist-Leninist party in Viet Nam. He established the Viet Nam National United Front, fathered the Vietnamese people's armed forces, founded the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first people's democratic state in our country and in South-East Asia. He brought about the fundamental factors guaranteeing complete victory to the Vietnamese revolution.

He showed constant concern for the training of cadres, Party members and the training of members of the Working Youth Union into genuine communist fighters;

(Continued page 4)

25th Anniversary of People's Republic of Bulgaria National Day

September 9, 1944: A Landmark in the History of Bulgarian People's Struggle

THE 25th anniversary of the National Day of the People's Republic of Bulgaria was solemnly observed in the DRVN.

At a reception given by Vladislav Videnov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the PR of Bulgaria to the DRVN, Premier Pham Van Dong delivered a speech in which he warmly hailed the great successes obtained by the brother Bulgarian people.

Premier Pham Van Dong said: "The success of the armed uprising on September 9, 1944 marked a historic turning point in the struggle of the Bulgaria nation. Under the glorious banner of the Bulgarian Communist Party headed by esteemed Comrade G. Dimitrov, hero of new Bulgaria, a great militant of the international communist movement, and a comrade-in-arms of President Ho Chi Minh, the staunch and indomitable Bulgarian people, together with the glorious Soviet Army, defeated the German fascists, abolished the dictatorial monarchic domination, set up the people's power, and advanced towards socialism.

"The past quarter of century is the period of constant development and splendid successes of the People's Republic of Bulgaria."

Premier Pham Van Dong went on:

"As an intimate comrade-in-arms of the Bulgarian people, the Vietnamese people highly rejoice over the great achievements of the Bulgarian people and consider them as an active contribution to the strengthening of the socialist camp, and to the common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism in the world."

35th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Sept. 25, 1969)

Mr. Ha Van Lau Unveils Nixon Administration Perfidy

AT the 35th session of the Paris Conference, Ambassador Ha Van Lau, representative of the DRVN, expounded his government's views on the Sept. 16 and 18 statements of President R. Nixon, who made a noise about US "good will" but who, in fact, stepped up the dirty war in South Viet Nam, introduced fresh contingents of GIs in it, intensified sweeps, chemical sprayings and B52 bombings in the South while unceasingly violating the sovereignty of the DRVN.

Meanwhile the American imperialists stepped up aggression against Laos and the bombardment of Laotian liberated areas and mounted encroaching attacks chiefly against the Plain of Jars, Highway No. 9 and Lower Laos under the command of American advisors and with the participation of Thailand troops.

The Viet Nam envoy also condemned US raids on Cambodia (bombings, incursions, chemical sprayings over the borderland, etc...) causing the death of many Cambodian civilians. He unmasked the US imperialists who stopped at nothing to massacre old people and children and who however have the cheek to call on various countries in the world "to persuade Hanoi to move seriously into the negotiations which could end this war."

The DRVN representative stressed the sincere desire of the DRVN government to settle the Viet Nam problem on the basis of respect of fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people. He also reaffirmed the determination of the Vietnamese in both zones to fight the US aggressors and fulfil the ultimate wish of the late President Ho Chi Minh to achieve a peaceful independent, unified, democratic, prosperous and strong Viet Nam and contribute to the cause of world peace.

US-Puppet Prison Regime, the Hardest Ever in South Viet Nam

(16 September Communique of the Committee for Denunciation of War Crimes of the US Imperialists and Their Henchmen in South Viet Nam)

1 — To suppress the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people for peace, independence, democracy and national reunification, the US imperialists and their lackeys from Diem—Nhu to Thieu — Ky have been resorting to white terror and enforcing a harsh prison regime.

Over the more than fifteen years past, hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese patriots have been murdered or disabled by the US-puppets, and hundreds of thousands of others imprisoned illegally.

2 — Prison camps have been set up, from village to central level, in enemy-occupied areas. Any puppet organ can make arrests without legal procedure.

Most of the political prisoners are not tried, and their terms are indeterminate. All the prisons are crowded, with room enough to stand only. A puppet Lower House representative, after inspecting the Gia Dinh prison, told the Saigon "National Assembly" that a ward of 54 square metres would be used for 150 persons — one square metre for every 3 persons — and each room was provided with a tin box for latrines.

A secret prison, codenamed P.42, has been built in the Saigon Zoo. According to the paper *Saigon Mai* (Saigon Morning) on November 12, 1963, the prison was provided with underground wards, which had tunnels leading to a cage of tigers — a sure way to make away with prisoners. The same paper on November 17, 1963 revealed the existence of a 9-ward underground prison in Hue, where prisoners had to live ankledeep in water all the time. Toward the end of October 1963, the paper added, all the tiny air-holes were blocked intentionally, resulting in the atrocious death from suffocation of many prisoners.

Most savage are torture methods. Prisoners are beaten with fists, truncheons, hammers or iron bars. Torturers crucify their victims on the wall with big nails; drive nails into their fingers and toes; put iron rings around their heads and screw these tight until the victims' eyes popped out of their sockets; tear off bits of flesh from their victims' abdomens, thighs or breasts with white-hot pincers; char the palms of their hands and feet by means of gasoline-soaked cotton, or give them the electric treatments, with the wire connected to their ears, noses, lips or genitals. As regards women, they force edged iron skewers into the most tender parts of their bodies, or rape them. Prisoners can be summoned to the torture room any hour of the day. Many have been maimed for life, or killed.

The food ration mostly consisted of half a bowl of rotten rice and a piece of stinking dried fish. Each person is allowed a half, or even one third, of a litre of water a day. Medicine is non-existent, and prisoners are not permitted to take care of one another in case of sickness.

Prisoners are not allowed to come into contact with their families, or to read anything whatsoever. People of the same family detained in the same prisons are not allowed to meet one another.

Moreover, prisoners are daily subject to brain-washing, through so-called "denunciation of communism" courses.

3 — Besides ill-treatment, the US-puppets have been using every way and means to liquidate large numbers of prisoners. Below are a few typical cases, which have been brought to light:

The US-Diem clique on December 1st, 1958, poisoned 6,000 inmates of the Phu Loi concentration camp. Over 4,000 of these were killed. The crime was committed under the direct command of US-trained Ho Van Tan.

On June 20, 1960, 52 inmates of the Kien Phong prison were taken to the bank of the Mekong River to be beheaded and thrown into the water.

On January 31st, 1968, the enemy pushed Mme Le Thi Rieng and Mr. Tran Van Kieu, both leaders of the mass movement in Saigon and a number of other prisoners, into prison-vans and drove them to Hong Bang Street, Saigon, where they machine-gunned them to death.

One day in March this year, enemy troops rounded up 800 prisoners in Poulo Condor, and attacked them with machine gun and mortar fire. Many were killed or wounded.

One June 19 this year, a premeditated bomb-blast in the prison in Tay Ninh town resulted in the death of nearly 100 prisoners.

4 — Besides supplying the Saigon regime with money, equipment and experts for the persecution of patriots, the US imperialists have been party to many of the crimes. The following cases have been revealed by American eyewitnesses:

In an article carried by the American magazine *Ramparts*, third quarter of 1966, Sergent Donald Duncan, who has served 18 months in South Viet Nam, said that US special forces were trained in such torture methods as to pour hot and cold water alternatively on the heads of the victims, to put one part of their bodies after another under electric treatment, to force water into their noses, to hang them up by their feet, etc. The author also said that he had seen US and puppet troops invent many other savage methods of torture. He concluded by declaring that what the US government described as "humanitarianism" and "good treatment" toward prisoners on its part was just hot air.

Donald Duncan himself, and Peter Martinsen and David Tuck, two other ex-GIs from South Viet Nam, declared at the Bertrand Russell Tribunal in November 1967 that US and puppet troops killed "suspects" by subjecting them to electric treatment, beating them up, or dashing them against the ground from high flying helicopters.

Ex-GI Ernest Elwin said in a TV interview in the Soviet Union in Dec. 1967 that the men of his unit had tortured a "suspect" by beating him black and blue, peeling off his skin with knives, plunging him into a barrel of salt water, cutting off his ears, and finally thrusting a bayonet into his chest, till he died.

AP on February 20, 1967 said US troops, during an operation along the coast of Binh Dinh province, captured two "suspects", whom they beat savagely and plunged many times into the water.

The same agency on July 27, 1967 reported that Captain Paul C. Ogg had ordered his troops to shoot a "suspect."

These, however, are not isolated cases.

5 — The Bertrand Russell Tribunal at its second sitting unanimously concluded that the treatment given by the US to prisoners in South Viet Nam ran counter to all laws of war.

Early this year, a number of Saigon "Congressmen" after a tour of various prisons, declared the prison regime "illegal" and "immoral."

The United States Still Has Neo-Colonialist Views Upon South Viet Nam

— September 21 Statement of the DRVN Government on US President Nixon's Statement —

ON September 16 and 18, US President Nixon announced the withdrawal of 35,000 US troops from South Viet Nam by December 15, 1969, and repeated US so-called "respect for the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination."

As is well-known, for many years now the United States has been carrying out intervention and aggression in Viet Nam; it has committed over half a million US and satellite troops to the most atrocious colonial war in history in South Viet Nam. As it has been committing aggression against South Viet Nam, it must bring it to an end, and withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam without laying down any condition whatsoever. Yet, it obdurately sticks to its "mutual withdrawal" claim. Setting terms to the withdrawal of US troops is tantamount to demanding a ransom to be paid for its aggression, which is completely at variance with justice and human morality.

The 35,000 men whose repatriation has been announced by the United States represents an insignificant part of the half million-odd US troops in South Viet Nam. This trick of troop withdrawals by driblets cannot conceal the fact that the United States is still maintaining nearly half a million US troops of occupation in South Viet Nam, and dragging out the war of aggression. That explains the condemnation by public opinion in the United States and in the world of this new cunning Nixon trick.

The US President has also stated that "the only item which is not negotiable is the right of the people of South Viet Nam to determine their own future free of outside interference." He behaved as if the United States had respected this right. In fact, everybody knows that the US has trampled it underfoot, created the Saigon puppet administration as a tool of its aggressive policy, and set US and satellite expeditionary troops to South Viet Nam for an aggressive war. Though now forced to pay lip service to "respect for the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination" in an attempt to deceive public opinion, it still sets its face against the formation of a provisional coalition government to see to free and democratic general elections, and insists that the Saigon puppet administration be allowed to organize faked general elections while US troops are occupying South Viet Nam.

It is therefore obvious that, in the name of "respect for the right to self-determination," US President Nixon is preventing the actual exercise of this right by the South Vietnamese people.

In his appeal issued on the occasion of July 20, 1969 President Ho Chi Minh made it clear that:

"The Vietnamese people firmly demand the withdrawal of all US and satellite troops, not the withdrawal of only 25,000, or 250,000 or 500,000 men, but a total, complete, unconditional withdrawal.[...]

"So long as US troops and the puppet administration remain in existence in South Viet Nam, really free and democratic general elections will be absolutely impossible."

It should also be pointed out that since US President Nixon took office, the United States has been intensifying the war in South Viet Nam, it has made every effort to strengthen the puppet army and consolidate the puppet administration, it has stage-managed a farce of "cabinet reshuffle," replaced Tran Van Huong by Tran Thien Khiem, a bellicose militarist, a former henchman of Ngo Dinh Diem. It has been carrying on acts jeopardizing the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and air attacking many places in the area between the 17th and the 19th parallels.

Clearly enough, the United States has not yet given up its aggressive designs, it is still hatching schemes to achieve neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and to prolong the partition of Viet Nam.

But the longer the United States pursues the war of aggression, the more it exposes itself to humiliating setbacks and to condemnation by justice- and peace-loving public opinion in the world and by progressive American public opinion.

The Vietnamese people deeply cherish peace, but a genuine peace in true independence and freedom.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam have put forward the 10-point overall solution as a sound basis for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem. This plan has enlisted warm approval and support from the peoples of the world. It is also an honourable way for the United States to extricate itself from the Viet Nam war, so costly in terms of men and money.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam unreservedly supports the position of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam expounded in its September 20, 1969 statement.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and its representative at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam have declared time and again that as the United States has committed aggression, it must bring its aggression to an end, and withdrawal all its troops from South Viet Nam without any condition whatsoever. Such a course is the key to a settlement of the Viet Nam issue.

As long as the United States pursues its aggression in Viet Nam, refuses to pull out its troops from South Viet Nam totally and unconditionally, and clings to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration, the Vietnamese people, carrying out the sacred testament of President Ho Chi Minh, are resolved to unite as one man, to brave all sacrifices and hardships, and to fight on till they achieve their fundamental national rights as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Conference on Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam are firmly confident that the fraternal socialist countries, the justice- and peace-loving countries, and the peoples throughout the world will extend increased support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle against US aggression till total victory.

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FOR its part, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam issued on Sept. 20 a condemnation of the obdurate position and perfidious attitude of the Nixon administration as regards the settlement of the South Viet Nam question. The statement read:

"THE Vietnamese people, like public opinion in the US and the world, have pointed out that the announced US pull-out of 25,000, of 35,000, or of more, troops is merely a piece of deception aimed at appeasing public opinion, covering up its scheme to prolong the war and US military occupation of South Viet Nam. Since the US has deployed over half-a-million expeditionary troops in an aggression against South Viet Nam, and has been infringing the independence and sovereignty of the Vietnamese people, it must end its aggression, withdraw quickly and completely this aggressor army from South Viet Nam. The arrogant demand by the US government that the Vietnamese people respond to its 'troop withdrawal in driblets' trick shows all the more clearly US persistence in its claim for 'reciprocity', and insistence on conditions for ending its aggression. US President Nixon asserts that he respects the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, while in fact he is scheming to maintain the puppet administration, opposing the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, and urging them to surrender and accept the rule of the clique of traitors.

"If the US really wants a peaceful settlement to the South Viet Nam question and an honourable end to the war, it must seriously respond to the ten-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, promptly and unconditionally withdraw all US troops and troops of the other foreign countries of the US camp from South Viet Nam. It must give up its scheme to maintain the stooge administration and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference.

"The South Vietnamese people ardently cherish peace but it must be a peace in independence and liberty. If the Nixon administration continues to strive after the illusory position of strength on the battlefield and at the conference table and obdurately prolongs the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, it cannot escape still heavier failures."

VIETNAMESE REVOLUTION MARCHES FORWARD

WITH two items on its agenda: last tribute to President Ho Chi Minh and election of the President and Vice-President of the Republic, the fifth session of the National Assembly of the DRVN (Third Legislature), held on September 23 in Ba Dinh Meeting Hall in Hanoi, bore a great significance.

Since its establishment 23 years ago it was the first time that the National Assembly of the DRVN met without President Ho Chi Minh, the father of the Vietnamese revolution who ushered in a new era for our people — an era in which they took the reins of their destiny —, the founder of the State, who after the August 1945 Revolution, organized the first general elections in our country. Born of this popular consultation, the DRVN National Assembly and Government brought for the first time in their history to our people the right to self-determination and to be masters of the country.

With boundless grief and profound gratitude, the National Assembly paid its last respects to the great departed. In his speech printed in full in this issue, Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of that high assembly, recalled the great contributions made by President Ho Chi Minh to the Vietnamese revolution, to the international communist and workers' movement and the national liberation movement.

After the reading of President Ho Chi Minh's testament, that of the September 3, 1969 Appeal of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and of the September 9, 1969 funeral homage assumed the significance of an oath, a pledge of the entire people to complete the work left unfinished by our beloved President.

The appointment to the highest State functions of two close comrades-in-arms of President Ho Chi Minh: President of the Republic Ton Duc Thang and Vice-President Nguyen Luong Bang, two experienced revolutionaries, unreservedly loyal to the people, was also an homage to the late great leader as well as a pledge to continue his work.

The unanimity reached in the vote reflected the monolithic unity of our people, their close solidarity around the Viet Nam Workers' Party in the effort to fulfil the ultimate wish of President Ho Chi Minh at the end of his testament: "...that our whole Party and people, closely joining their efforts, build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous and strong Viet Nam and make a worthy contribution to the world revolution."

The presence at the National Assembly of deputies representing South Viet Nam and, at the session Presidium, of several South Viet Nam leaders now visiting the North, gave the meeting the value of a symbol. "Viet Nam is one country, the Vietnamese are one nation," said President Ho Chi Minh. It was the 31 million Vietnamese who, on September 23, 1969, expressed once more their determination to consolidate and strengthen the people's power for the achievement of the fundamental aspirations of our people.

The Vietnamese revolution is marching steadily forward on the trail blazed by President Ho Chi Minh.

STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT TON DUC THANG

Comrade Deputies,

WE would like to extend our sincere thanks to the National Assembly for its confidence in us and for having elected us to the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. For my part, it is a great honour to succeed President Ho Chi Minh, a thing I had never dared to think of.

At present, our Vietnamese people are united and are of one mind in perseveringly stepping up the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation. Though still having to go through many more hardships and sacrifices, our Vietnamese people are resolved to fight until complete victory. At present, the people of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam are bending all their energies on socialist construction. It is certain that the people of North Viet Nam will succeed in the building of a new life.

In our capacities, we will strive our utmost to contribute to the whole great revolutionary cause of the nation in implementation of the sacred Testament of President Ho Chi Minh. In spite of our limited abilities, we take this pledge to the memory of President Ho Chi Minh and to the National Assembly: we will do our best to fulfil the responsibilities with which the National Assembly has entrusted us. It is our wish that the National Assembly as well as our people will follow our work and assist us in our new tasks so that we may achieve more effective results.

Once again, we sincerely thank the National Assembly.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY TRUONG CHINH...

(Continued page 1)

he educated our people to love their country and socialism; he fostered the young generations in our country into brilliant successors of the revolutionary cause of our Party, people and nation.

President Ho Chi Minh led the two revolutions in our country: the national people's democratic revolution and the socialist revolution, and the two long wars of resistance of our people against the aggressors: the former war of resistance against the French colonialists and the present war of resistance against the US imperialists.

He and the Party led our people to accomplish the August Revolution, to overthrow the Japanese imperialists' rule and the pro-Japanese puppet administration, to wrest back State power, and then to resist foreign invasion in order to maintain and consolidate the people's democratic power, consolidate the State of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, thus enabling the revolution in our country to develop unceasingly and helping on the revolutionary movement in the world.

Leading the August Revolution to success, President Ho Chi Minh proved that: in our time, a national people's democratic revolution led by the working class has every possibility to succeed in a colonial country encircled on all sides by the imperialists and feudalists; such a revolution is closely connected with the socialist revolution in the "metropolis" without depending on it; on the contrary, it can be brought to fruition in the colonial country before the working class in the "metropolis" comes into power.

Leading the socialist revolution in North Viet Nam to success, President Ho Chi Minh proved that: in our time, a backward agricultural country is fully capable of advancing straight to socialism, without going through the stage of capitalist development; the socialist revolution and the building of socialism in such a country have every possibility of success, if led along a correct line and wholeheartedly assisted by the fraternal socialist countries.

President Ho Chi Minh and the Party set up the first people's democratic power in our country. For several thousand years of history, social regimes, State administrations and dynasties succeeded one another till the French colonialists invaded Viet Nam and imposed on it their colonial regime. In those times, the ruling class in our country was but a minority of exploiters, whereas the labouring people, who made up the majority, were merely servants of parasitic exploiters from one generation to another. The August Revolution marked a great turning point in our nation's history, because since then — and only since then — State power really belongs to our people.

With the triumph of the August Revolution and the victory of the war of resistance against the French colonialists President Ho Chi Minh made a contribution to the world revolution — he led our people to breach the colonial system of imperialism in one of its weakest links, thereby helping to initiate the state of disintegration of the colonial system, in the context of the successful October Revolution and the taking shape of the world socialist system.

Leading the war of resistance against US aggression, President Ho Chi Minh led the valiant struggle of our people to liberate the South, defend the North, advance to the peaceful reunification of the country and to safeguard the outpost of the socialist camp in South-East Asia. With the great successes recorded in this extremely arduous but extremely glorious war of resistance, President Ho Chi Minh proved that: a nation, even though it is small, provided it is united closely, resolved to fight for self-liberation along a sound revolutionary line, and enjoys the sympathy, support and assistance of the socialist countries and the world's peoples, is bound to defeat the aggressors, be they the imperialist ringleader!

The accomplishments and work of President Ho Chi Minh constitute contributions of decisive importance to the victory of our revolution and transcend the boundary of a country. For that reason, his death came as a great shock not only to our entire people, but also to the peoples of other countries. An atmosphere of grief shrouded our country (including the areas temporarily under enemy control in the South) and swept the whole world. The mourning for President Ho Chi Minh was a demonstration of strength at home and abroad which sowed panic in the enemy camp. Our people have felt boundless grief over his death and have shown their determination to carry out his will. The revolutionary people in the world have, in many ways, shared our grief and sorrow.

President Ho Chi Minh was an eminent leader and an outstanding

(Continued page 6)

Summary Biography of President

TON DUC THANG

TON DUC THANG was born in 1888 into a worker's family in Long Xuyen province, Nam Bo (South Viet Nam).

As a school boy and also afterwards as a mechanic, he eagerly participated in actions for the interests of the pupils and workers oppressed and exploited by the French colonialists.

To avoid arrest, he went abroad in 1912; he became a sailor, then enlisted in the French navy as a mechanic. He took part in political movements among the French seamen. In 1919, he joined French sailors in an anti-war mutiny to oppose the French imperialists' interventionist scheme to send troops to crush the young Soviet Union. He himself hoisted a red flag on a French warship to hail the Russian October Revolution. After this mutiny, he was arrested and discharged. He then worked as a mechanic for the French Renault Company, and was active in the French General Confederation of Labour.

In 1920, he came back to Saigon, and joined in the revolutionary movement in the country. In 1925, he became a member of the Young Revolutionary Comrades' Association.

In 1929, he was arrested by the French colonialists, sentenced to 20 years' hard labour and deported to Poulo Condor. There, with other comrades he set up a Party cell in the jail to lead the struggle. In 1933, this cell was recognized by the Party Committee for Nam Ky (Cochinchina) as a special cell of the Party, and he became a member of the Communist Party of Indochina as from that date. Throughout his 17 years of detention in Poulo Condor, in the extremely harsh conditions of an imperialist prison, he always showed a high spirit of undaunted struggle, constantly endeavoured to steel and temper his militant will as a Communist, constantly took part in education and organizational work and in the leadership of the struggle in prison.

After the victory of the August Revolution, he was brought back from Poulo Condor to the mainland by the Party and the Government.

He immediately took part in the war of resistance against the French colonialists who attempted to reconquer South Viet Nam.

During the nine years of the war of resistance against the French colonialists and since the restoration of peace, he has been entrusted with many important Party and State responsibilities:

— Member of the Nam Bo Administrative and Resistance Committee;

— Deputy to the National Assembly for Saigon-Cholon;

— General-Inspector of the DRVN.

— Deputy-Chairman, then Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

— Elected member of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party at its Second National Congress (1951) and Third National Congress (1.960);

— Campaigned for the founding of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, of which he was eventually elected President of the Presidium of the Central Committee;

— And elected Vice-President of the DRVN by the National Assembly in 1960.

He is also Honorary President of the Viet Nam Committee for Children, President of the Viet Nam-Soviet Friendship Association, and member of the World Peace Council.

TON DUC THANG's life has been a splendid example of revolutionary staunchness and absolute loyalty to the revolutionary cause. A close collaborator of President Ho Chi Minh, he has carried out with remarkable success President Ho Chi Minh's precept: "Unity, unity, great unity," and has made a major contribution to the building and broadening of the National United Front and of international solidarity. He has also set a high standard of modesty, sincerity, industriousness, simplicity, love for the people and for his comrades; he deserves the confidence, love and respect of our entire Party and people.

Summary Biography of Vice-President

NGUYEN LUONG BANG

NGUYEN LUONG BANG was born in 1904 in Hai Duong (now Hai Hung province) into a poor country scholar's family.

From early youth, due to poverty, he had to give up school and became a worker on board a ship.

In 1925, he met in Canton President Ho Chi Minh who won him over to the revolution. He joined the Young Revolutionary Comrades' Association and was sent back home by President Ho Chi Minh with an assignment.

In Haiphong, he actively carried out agitation and organizational work among the workers. Later, the organization broke off and he was hunted by the security service, and had to settle temporarily in Saigon where he continued his revolutionary activities.

In 1928, he returned to Haiphong and resumed his work among the workers. Afterwards, on orders from above, he went to Hongkong, Canton and Shanghai. There, he joined the Annam Communist Party (which eventually became the Indochinese Communist Party).

In 1931, he was arrested by the French security service, sent back to Viet Nam and sentenced to 20 years' hard labour.

In 1932, he escaped from jail and went on with his revolutionary occupation.

In 1933, he was arrested again, sentenced to life imprisonment and deported to Son La.

In 1943, he again broke out of prison, and carried on his activities.

During his arrest and imprisonments he always firmly maintained his revolutionary staunchness and upheld his spirit of revolutionary struggle despite extremely savage tortures, worked hard and fostered his revolutionary qualities, and took part in organizing and leading the struggle in prison.

In 1943, he was appointed alternate member of the Party's Central Committee, in charge of the Party's finances and its work among enemy armymen; he was also assigned to work in the Viet Minh Front (Viet Nam League for Independence) and was Minister of Finance of its National Committee.

In 1945, at the Party national conference in Tan Trao (North Viet Nam) he was granted full membership of the Party Central Committee. The Tan Trao National Congress elected him to the National Committee of Liberation.

Since the August Revolution, he has been entrusted with many important Party and State functions:

— Full member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, elected by the Second National Congress in 1951 and Third National Congress in 1960.

He was a member of the National Committee of the Viet Minh Front and was given the following responsibilities:

— Director General of the Viet Nam National Bank;

— First Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the D.R.V.N. to the Soviet Union;

— General Inspector of the Government;

— Head of the Control Board of the Party's Central Committee.

In whatever capacity, he has always shown unqualified dedication to the Revolution and the people, and has fulfilled satisfactorily all the tasks assigned to him.

He has made very worthy contributions to the victory of the August Revolution, to the building of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and to the building and consolidation of the Party.

A good disciple and close comrade-in-arms of President Ho Chi Minh, Nguyen Luong Bang has over the past forty years of revolutionary achievements, distinguished himself by boundless loyalty to the Party and people, dauntlessness in revolutionary actions, and fine revolutionary qualities: modesty, simplicity, industry, thrift, integrity and uprightness, total dedication to public interests and complete selflessness.

The Diplomatic Corps presents its warm congratulations to the newly-elected President and Vice-President.

PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG'S MESSAGE TO I.O.J. CONFERENCE

Premier PHAM VAN DONG sent on September 23 the following message to the Conference of the International Organization of Journalists opened in Pyongyang on September 18, 1969:

On behalf of the Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government, I wish to convey to the Conference of the International Organization of Journalists in Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, our warmest greetings.

While the imperialists headed by US imperialism are trying to carry out their interventionist and aggressive schemes against the revolutionary people all over the world, the current Conference of the International Organization of Journalists is of great importance in the cause of rallying all the progressive forces in the world struggling for independence, peace, democracy and social progress.

I sincerely thank the Conference's energetic condemnation of the imperialist aggressors and unanimous and thorough support for the Vietnamese people's war of resistance to US aggression to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve peaceful national reunification.

With the strong encouragement from world public opinion, the Vietnamese people are resolved to materialize the Testament of President Ho Chi Minh, to unite millions as one man, overcome all sacrifices and hardships, to persevere in, and step up, their fight till complete victory.

I wish the Conference brilliant success.

I wish the delegates the best of health.

September 23: *International Day of Solidarity with Puerto Rican People.*

September 25: *International Day of Solidarity with Mozambique People.*

THE PUERTO RICAN AND MOZAMBIQUE PEOPLES WILL WIN

A small country in the West Indies ruled by the Spaniards since the 16th century, Puerto Rico became a republic after the September 23, 1868 popular uprising. In 1898, the Yankee imperialists snatched it from the hands of the Spaniards and turned it into a US new-type colony and military base. Despite US repression, the Puerto Ricans have been fighting stubbornly for the removal of US military bases, withdrawal of atomic weapons from their country, for independence, democratic liberties and life improvement. Puerto Rican liberation armed commandos have dealt hard blows to the enemy in the economic field.

The Mozambique people have been fighting heroically against the Portuguese colonialists backed by the US and West German imperialists. From some dozen people armed with rudimentary weapons, the Mozambique patriotic armed forces have considerably developed in size. In three years, from 1964 to 1967, they wiped out 5,000 enemy troops, destroyed 500 military vehicles and downed 36 aircraft. At present they are controlling one-third of Mozambique territory inhabited by about one million people.

The Puerto Rican and Mozambique peoples have many times raised their voices in support of the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression.

Their struggle has been enjoying the warm sympathy and backing of socialist countries and other nations in the world. The First Conference of Solidarity with Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America decided to keep September 23 and 25 as international days of solidarity with these two peoples.

The Vietnamese people give them wholehearted support and are sure of their final victory.

Speech Delivered by Truong Chinh...

(Continued from page 4)

militant of the international communist and workers' movement and the national liberation movement in this 20th century. He made tireless efforts to help strengthen international solidarity — solidarity in the socialist camp and solidarity in the international communist movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, solidarity among the colonial and semi-colonial peoples against imperialism, solidarity of the colonial peoples with the working class and labouring people in the imperialist countries, and solidarity among the world's peoples in the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

President Ho Chi Minh grew up and carried out revolutionary activities at a time when imperialism had expanded to all the five continents, but the triumph of the October Socialist Revolution ushered in a new era in the history of mankind; the era of transition from capitalism to socialism on a world-wide scale. A worker and citizen of an enslaved country, he soon realized that: to emancipate the working class from all oppression and exploitation, it is necessary to liberate one's nation from the colonialist yoke and the emancipation of one's nation from the colonialist yoke cannot be separated from the liberation of mankind from the imperialist yoke. For that reason, he said: "To save the country and liberate the nation, there is no other path than the path of proletarian revolution." (Introduction to *Ho Chi Minh — Selected Writings and Speeches* published in the Soviet Union, 1959).

The revolutionary work of President Ho Chi Minh combined three aspects of struggle: to liberate the working class, liberate the nation and liberate mankind from all shackles of imperialism.

In him, patriotism was closely wedded to proletarian internationalism. With his tireless revolutionary activities he proved that: a genuine patriot must at the same time be a genuine internationalist.

At the age of 15, President Ho Chi Minh acted as a messenger for the revolutionaries in the patriotic movement at the time and "had the earnest desire to drive out the French colonialists and liberate the people" (Tran Dan Tien: *Glimpses of the Life of President Ho Chi Minh*). From his youth to his death, never for a moment did he neglect the effort to save the people and save the country. All his life, he devotedly served the revolution, the people and the Fatherland with staunchness, perseverance and self-abnegation.

President Ho Chi Minh was precisely the man who "suffered before all the others and rejoiced after all the others," and who "could not be tempted by wealth, nor shaken by poverty, nor subdued by force." President Ho Chi Minh's life was one of great trials. But he always remained optimistic and calm, faced up to all hardships and all sacrifices, was never complacent in success, nor disheartened by defeat, and always believed in the masses and in the final victory of the revolution.

His especially exalted human qualities were modesty, simplicity, industry, thrift, integrity, uprightness, total dedication to public interests and complete selflessness.

He kept in close touch with the people, endeavoured to learn from the experiences of the masses so as to lead them, felt constant concern for the interests of the masses; eagerly cared for the workers, both mental and manual, for old people, the youth and children, the minority nationalities, the armymen's families etc... He showed great solicitude for the equality of women.

President Ho Chi Minh ingeniously allied the finest traditions of the Vietnamese nation with the thoroughgoing revolutionary ideology of our time, Marxist-Leninist ideology.

President Ho Chi Minh was a revolutionary leader endowed with these qualities: deep insight into revolutionary theory, clearsightedness, skill in organizing and mobilizing the masses, exemplariness in revolutionary virtues. He was not only a staunch, clearsighted, loyal and cordial comrade, but also a generous and kind-hearted father and uncle. He was a man of great genius, great humanism and great courage.

We are immeasurably proud of President Ho Chi Minh and feel greatly honoured of being guided by him and of fighting under his ever-victorious banner.

Today, our great leader, great comrade, most venerated and beloved teacher and father is no more! Boundless are our sorrow over him and our gratitude to him!

The worthiest manner to express our regret for his death and gratitude to him is for all our Party, armed forces and people, and our National Assembly to strengthen their unity and their determination to overcome all difficulties, to advance steadily along the revolutionary line mapped out by President Ho Chi Minh and continue successfully his great work.

Comrade Deputies,

We are holding a meeting of the National Assembly, the highest organ of State power. To strengthen and consolidate the State power was one of President Ho Chi Minh's greatest preoccupations.

Once the State power is in the hands of the people, every effort must be made to strengthen and consolidate it; democracy and dictatorship must be enforced: democracy towards the people and dictatorship towards the enemies of the people, the enemies of the revolution.

To strengthen and consolidate the people's democratic dictatorship so as to defend and develop the gains of the revolution, and take the revolution in our country constantly forward, we must consolidate the bases of the State power and strengthen the leadership of the Vanguard Party over it.

The main basis of the people's power is the **worker-peasant alliance.** The workers and peasants make up the overwhelming majority of the people. As the most miserable social sections under the old regime, they are the most eager participants in the revolution and enjoy the greatest benefits from the revolution. They are deeply attached to the revolutionary power for the establishment of which they have made many sacrifices and efforts. For that reason, an administration relying on the worker-peasant alliance reposes on the firmest basis.

Another basis of the people's power is the **national united front,** or in other words, the bloc of national unity that brings together the different strata of the people, the various religious communities, the majority and minority peoples living together on our territory, in the struggle against the common enemy of the nation — imperialism and its henchmen. The revolution has liberated the people, the various nationalities from the yoke of imperialism and feudalism, from the exploitation of man by man. For that reason, our people, the various nationalities in our country are deeply attached to the people's power and resolutely support it. To be carried out, all the lines and policies of the administration must be popularized among the political parties and mass organizations within the Front, so that they voluntarily apply them. That is the reason why our people's power must depend on the National United Front.

Another firm basis of the people's power is the **people's armed forces:** the regular army, regional army, guerillas, militia and self-defence corps, and the people's security forces. The people's armed forces have the task of defending the gains of the revolution and the people's power against all enemies inside and outside the country. To strengthen and consolidate the people's power, our Party and State must show the greatest concern for the building and development of the people's armed forces, unceasingly raise the political and military standards, the self-imposed sense of discipline, and the tactical, technical and professional levels of the people's armed forces. It is necessary to strengthen the Party's leadership over these forces. It is necessary to train our army, our people's armed forces into men unswervingly "loyal to the Party, devoted to the people, ready to make sacrifices and to struggle for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, for socialism, resolved to fulfil any task, overcome any difficulty, and defeat any enemy," as President Ho Chi Minh taught us. (Speech at the reception on Viet Nam's 20th Army Day, December 22, 1964).

Another basis of our people's administration is the **national economy.** Only when the economy is developed can the country be rich and its people strong. The administration is steady when the people eat their fill. Our administration must supply the people with adequate food, clothing, housing, transport, education, sanitation facilities etc. In his Testament President Ho Chi Minh instructed us to "work out a very effective **plan** for economic and cultural development to ceaselessly **raise the living standard of the people.**" We must try our best to encourage and organize the people in the emulation drive for building and developing the economy and developing culture. Our economy is a socialist economy, therefore, we must, on the one hand, step up the building of the material and technical bases of socialism, consolidate and develop the State-run economy and the co-operative economy, on the other hand, we must keep up our efforts to complete the socialist transformation, constantly develop and improve the socialist relations of production, oppose all inroads of private economy, and resolutely prevent the revival of exploitations in disguised or undisguised forms. The strengthening of economic management is a matter of utmost urgency.

While consolidating the above bases of the administration, we must **strengthen the Party's leadership** over the administrative organs at various levels, because this is a task of prime importance to guarantee the steadiness and strength of the people's power. The Party's leadership over the administration must be provided by means of suggestions and persuasion, and not by authoritative command. The Party executives at all levels must avoid taking upon themselves all the administration, likewise, the administrative organs must keep themselves from departing from the Party's lines and policies.

Dear Comrade Deputies,

It is our task to strengthen and consolidate our State, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, consolidate the people's democratic power established through a hard fight waged by our people under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh and our Party.

By making practical contributions to this task, we deputies to the National Assembly will effectively join the entire people in consolidating North Viet Nam so as to successfully build socialism in the North, to make all-out efforts together with our Southern fellow-countrymen to carry on persevieringly the war of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, to liberate the South, achieve the peaceful reunification of the country, build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous and strong Viet Nam, in fulfilment of President Ho Chi Minh's wish. We must realize at all costs his will: "Whatever difficulties and hardships ahead, our people are sure of total triumph. The US imperialists shall have to quit out. Our Fatherland shall be reunified. Our compatriots in the North and in the South shall be re-united under the same roof" (President Ho Chi Minh's Testament). The strengthening and consolidation of our people's power will put our State in a better position to mobilize the resources of the whole nation so as to step up the building of socialism on the one hand, and on the other hand, to meet all requirements of the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, and fulfil our duty as the great area toward South Viet Nam — the great frontline.

We must strive to study President Ho Chi Minh's thoughts, virtues and style of work, study his works and his sacred Testament.

Let us endeavour to improve our revolutionary qualities and morality, train ourselves so as constantly to raise our political and professional standards, and carry out President Ho Chi Minh's teaching: "Always to make efforts so as to be worthy of our role as loyal servants of the people, as representatives with the virtues of industry, thrift, integrity and uprightness, total dedication to common interests and complete selflessness, wholeheartedly serving the Fatherland, the people, and socialism" (Speech at the Hanoi People's Congress to welcome the candidates to the National Assembly appearing before the Hanoi constituents, April 24, 1960).

We must always keep in close touch with the masses so as to know the people's requirements and aspirations, care for the people's life and submit suitable suggestions in time to the administration so as to bring pratical benefits to the masses and stimulate them to engage enthusiastically in the patriotic emulation both in production and combat.

Let us contribute positively to the activities of the National Assembly and as far as we can, to the activities of the People's Councils at all levels, so as to enable the people-elected organs to discharge their functions and tasks, thereby helping ensure effective exercise of the democratic rights of the people.

Dear Comrade Deputies

PRESIDENT Ho Chi Minh's contributions and virtues can compare with the high skies and the vast sea. His demise is a tremendous loss for our nation and our Fatherland. Boundless is our grief! But we must contain our sorrow, and, hand in hand, close our ranks around the Viet Nam Workers' Party and its Central Committee, translate our grief into revolutionary deeds, and together with the people engage in the patriotic emulation campaign, accomplish most satisfactorily all immediate tasks and duties, thus continuing with remarkable success President Ho Chi Minh's revolutionary work.

Our enemies expected that after President Ho Chi Minh's death we shall be bewildered, divided or deflect from his revolutionary line. But they are grossly mistaken! Abiding by his Testament, loyal to his teachings, our entire Party, army and people will strengthen unity, bring into full play the spirit of collectiveness and socialist co-operation, eagerly advance forward to fulfil all tasks assigned by the Party and State.

We are determined to carry out President Ho Chi Minh's Testament and the pledges solemnly taken on behalf of our entire Party and people by Comrade Le Duan in Ba Dinh Square at the ceremony in memory of President Ho Chi Minh on September 9, 1969.

We pledge ourselves to be for ever loyal to President Ho Chi Minh's memory and to struggle all our life under his glorious banner!

Glory to President Ho Chi Minh, the leader of genius, the beloved and venerated teacher of the Vietnamese working class and people, of the whole Vietnamese nation!

President Ho Chi Minh's memory will live for ever in our hearts! His name will remain for ever with our mountains and rivers, with our Fatherland!

Together with the entire people, our National Assembly respectfully pays our last tribute to him!

Over 65,000 Enemy...

(Continued from page 8)

Indeed, none of the boasts of the US about its "good will" or about the ability of the puppet army to replace the US forces can negate the hard fact that it is impossible for the US to bolster up the puppet army and administration. Neither can it achieve its scheme of "de-Americanizing" the war nor "de-escalate" of its own free will, and still less can it gain a position of strength.

Second, the recent farce of "cabinet reshuffle" in Saigon was but a move to gang up various groups of reactionaries and to give the puppet regime a varnish of democracy and broad union. The choice of Tran Thien Khiem to head a cabinet mainly composed of puppet military and former agents of Ngo Dinh Diem only threw a strong light on the enemy's political isolation and the bitter power struggle among the puppets. At grassroots level, the puppet administration has become less and less effective with the failure of the "pacification" program. Meanwhile, the growing antiwar movement in the United States and the world has worsened the confusion among the American ruling circles. Nixon and his aides only met with strong popular protests in their trips to a number of Asian and Latin American countries.

Third, both the economic and financial situation in enemy-controlled areas are very critical. The puppets' budgetary deficits are very serious, while prices are skyrocketing, and inflation and money depreciation is aggravating, causing greater misery to the already destitute life of the population there.

All this gives the lie to the sham prosperity in the towns, sheds light on the ailing, dependent economy there, and points to the utter incapacity and extremely odious features of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration. Moreover, it exposes the boast about the "progress" of the "rural pacification."

Both the military situation and the balance of forces have become more and more favourable for us, further proving this law in spite of all the difficulties, the longer we fight, the greater our strength and the higher our determination. The US-puppets, though still very obdurate, will become weaker and weaker with the prolongation of the war.

At present, in spite of their evident failure Nixon and Co. are still struggling desperately. But it is a certainty that they can never bring to fruition their schemes to prolong and "de-Americanize" the war, to "pacify" the country-side, and to "de-escalate" from a position of strength.

OVER 65,000 ENEMY CASUALTIES IN 45 DAYS

(Communique of PLAF Command)

The Command of the PLAF issued on September 20 a communique on PLAF military achievements in August and the first half of September in South Viet Nam.

The communiqué reads:

IN the past 45 days, our armed forces and people have attacked the enemy in nearly forty cities and provincial towns, including Sai Gon, Da Nang, Hue, Da Lat and Can Tho, dealing repeated blows at some.

Our targets included nearly 60 adverse headquarters at regiment, brigade or divisional levels, and also the headquarters of the US Army and the General Headquarters of the puppet Navy. Heavy losses were inflicted on the headquarters of the US 1st Infantry Division, the US 1st and 5th Marine Regiments, the US 196th Infantry Brigade, and the 41st, 44th and 53rd Regiments of the puppet army. The HQs of the 9th Regiment, puppet 5th Division, twice came under very violent fire.

More than 30 military airfields, many of them very important like the ones in Da Nang, Chu Lai, Thanh Son and Bien Hoa were also raided. So were various military ports such as Son Tra (in Da Nang), Cam Ranh, Cat Lai and Nha Be (near Saigon) and many major logistical complexes of the enemy.

Many vital roads and waterways, like Highways 1, 11, 4 and 1, and the rivers of Long Tau, Dong Nai, and Vam Co Dong, also were subject to continual attacks from our forces, which increasingly hindered the enemy's movement.

In areas affected by adverse "pacification" operations, our people have risen up, wiped out many "pacification" teams, disbanded large numbers of "Popular Defence" units and laid siege to enemy positions. In other areas, our people have overthrown the enemy rule and expanded the liberated zone.

We have destroyed an important part of the enemy's manpower and war materials. These included:

— Over 65,000 casualties among them 25,000 US and satellite troops;

— 5 brigades and regiments of the US-puppets heavily depleted.

Many "crack" units of the enemy were mauled, some very badly such as the US 196th Brigade, the 3rd Brigade of the US Air Cav., the US 11th Motorized Regiment and the 9th Regiment of the puppet army. The 15th Motorized Regiment of the puppet army was put out of action shortly after its formation.

In terms of war materials, enemy losses included 795 planes shot down or destroyed on the ground; 2,600 military vehicles, among them 1,450 tanks and armoured cars, demolished; 178 war vessels sunk or damaged; 280 big guns destroyed; 80 storages of bombs, fuel and other war materiel burned down, and nearly 200 positions razed to the ground.

A — For us these successes are very significant.

First, for all the enemy's efforts to "clear and hold," his "forward defence," his increased deployment of reserved forces, his wanton B52 bombings and indiscriminate toxic chemical sprayings on areas of heavy population, our forces completely hold the initiative on all battlefields, be it in the plains, the mountains, or the towns, from Quang Tri province in the north to La Mau province in the south, which means a serious setback for enemy defence strategy and tactics and a very substantial success for us.

It was in Binh Long, Phuoc Long and Tay Ninh provinces where great enemy forces were concentrated, that we launched the fiercest attacks. Meanwhile, we also struck the enemy in all the three strategic areas in Quang Tri — Thua Thien region and in the provinces of Central and Southern Trung Bo.

Great successes were scored in Mekong Delta provinces, where, coupled with severe blows dealt at the enemy on important theatres of operation, guerilla warfare raged furiously, in the countryside, along communication lines, and even in the towns.

Second, our People's Liberation Armed Forces applied with ingenuity various methods of combat, made the best use of the factor of surprise, and successfully pitted small forces against much greater forces of the enemy. Our ability in fighting enemy armour and aircraft markedly increased, accounting for the wiping out of many enemy vehicles and aircraft, at times of whole convoys and flights. This, indeed, was a crippling blow to one of the enemy strongest points at present.

The achievements and steady progress of our forces were indicative of their ability to fight fierce and sustained battles untill complete victory.

Third, guerilla war developed with a new mettle, even in the plains and urban centres. Hundreds of thousands of people, assisted by the PLAF and with the sympathy of puppet soldiers, rose up against "pacification" raids and pressganging. The enemy's "accelerated pacification" in spite of the savage methods applied, was wrecked or repelled, at many places.

Fourth, ably led by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and encouraged by the support from our Northern kith-and-kin, we have continued to step up the offensives and uprisings, giving full play to our revolutionary heroism in fighting, thus obtaining many new great successes, forerunners of more and bigger ones in the days to come.

B — As for the enemy, following our Spring-Summer victories our latest attacks in August and the first half of September have pushed them further into the blind alley of their aggressive war and multiplied their military, political and economic difficulties.

First, for all his military efforts, the enemy failed to increase his efficiency. Far from forestalling our onslaught, the "clear and hold" strategy revealed many more weak points of the US and puppets and aggravated his passiveness.

The US intention to reduce its casualties, "de-escalate" from a position of strength, and "de-Americanize" the war, was thwarted. The puppet army pushed to the battlefield to take the brunt of the war in the place of the US troops, was seriously beaten together with its US "ally," and the combat rate of both rose substantially. Morale was particularly low among enemy troops. To dodge the fighting or to abandon weapons, vehicles and even the wounded and dead on the battlefield became a thing of daily occurrence in both the US and puppet army, while anti-war actions by whole companies grew more and more frequent in the US forces. Desertion was rampant among the puppet army. It is clear that all the hardware the enemy had rained on South Viet Nam could not make up for their very basic weak points—their troops' declining combativeness, sinking morale, and incapacity to discharge their strategic tasks.

The farcical withdrawal announced by Nixon of another 35,000 troops from now to the year end is but a new trick to appease the antiwar movement of the people and students in the US, and to cover up the scheme of the US to carry on the war and maintain the nearly 500,000 Americans in the field.

(Continued page 7)

24th ANNIVERSARY OF NAM BO RESISTANCE

(September 23)

TWENTY four years ago, three weeks after the declaration of Viet Nam independence, the French colonialists working in close co-operation with British and American imperialists landed their troops in Saigon and waged a war of reconquest against Viet Nam and Indochina. The young Democratic Republic of Viet Nam opposed to that aggression a patriotic war of resistance in Nam Bo (ex-Cochinchina). The conflict spread to all Viet Nam fifteen months later and ended with the Dien Bien Phu victory and the signing of the Geneva agreements in 1954.

On the occasion of the 24th Anniversary of Nam Bo Resistance, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the South Viet Nam Republic called on the Southern patriotic people and fighters to powerfully promote the traditions of September the 23rd in order to surmount all difficulties and hardships, raise aloft the banner of unity and resistance against US aggression and for national salvation with fervid patriotism and deep hatred for the aggressors and their stooges. The PRG urged the 14 million South Vietnamese to fight with all necessary sacrifices until complete liberation of their beloved South, reunification of the country and unity of all the 31 million Vietnamese as wished by the late venerated President Ho Chi Minh.

On this occasion, a grand meeting was held in Hanoi at which speakers reaffirmed the determination of the North Vietnamese to honour their commitment to their Southern blood brothers until total victory over the US aggressors as forseen by President Ho Chi Minh.

Military Operations

— *Saigon Front:* 600 Enemy Casualties (3 Companies Destroyed or Decimated).

— *Da Nang Front:* One Enemy Company Wiped Out and 2 Others Decimated.

— *South of the 17th Parallel:* 2 US Companies Depleted, 32 Aircraft Brought Down.

SAIGON FRONT

ON September 14, the PLAF mounted 3 attacks in the sectors North of Saigon. At Soc Lu, in Binh Long province, 2 enemy companies lost 140 men killed or wounded. Before noon, a US motorized column was intercepted near Phuoc Binh provincial capital (117 km North-North-east of Saigon). 200 GI's and 12 tanks and armoured cars were put out of action. The 3rd engagement took place near Dau Tieng (64 km Northwest of Saigon) where a US encampment suffered serious losses: more than 100 GI's put out of action, the CP of the encampment destroyed, and 24 military vehicles and 4 artillery pieces destroyed.

On September 22, the patriots assaulted a puppet Ranger company at Thien Ngon, 118 km Northwest of Saigon in Tay Ninh province, taking a toll of some one hundred adverse troops.

All told, at least 600 US and puppet troops were knocked out between September 14 and September 22. Enemy casualties included 3 companies destroyed of decimated.

DA NANG FRONT

THE PLAF struck at the US 196th Light Infantry Brigade in the Hiep Duc area (50 km Southwest of Da Nang) and, between September 12 and September 16, put 260 adverse men out of action in this sector (2 US companies badly mauled and shot down 5 choppers).

Further Southeast, near Son Tinh (118 km Southeast of Da Nang) a puppet company was completely written off the musterroll on September 14.

Before dawn September 22 a detachment of the US 11th infantry brigade, American Division, was engaged in heavy fighting near Duc Pho (142 km Southeast of Da Nang) and, according to the adverse command, lost 40 men killed or wounded and 3 choppers grounded.

SOUTH OF THE 17TH PARALLEL

ON September 17, the PLAF intercepted and destroyed a US marine company near Tan Lam (known to Americans as Rockpile, 26 km Southwest of Dong Ha). Enemy reinforcements came under attack upon landing and another US marine company was decimated. 200 GI's in all were disabled.

Next day, near Tan Lam an enemy detachment ran into an ambush on Highway No.9 and took 75 casualties.

In this sector, between September 12 and September 18, the PLAF brought down a total of 32 planes and helicopters.